

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 28 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Shiina et al.

Serial No.: 10/721,751 Group Art Unit: 3611

Filed: November 26, 2003 Examiner: Lee Sin Yee Lum Vannucci

For: ELECTRIC POWER STEERING APPARATUS

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Box AF
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450*Entry Requested*
M.A. Lee 2/22/2007
approved
LD
*2/26/07*REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

This paper is in preparation for imminent appeal and in response to the Office Action dated October 18, 2006.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, 17-18, and 20-32 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 8, 12, 20, and 29 are independent.

Applicants note that, notwithstanding any claim amendments herein or later during prosecution, Applicants' intent is to encompass equivalents of all claim elements.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-15, 17-18, and 20-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizukoshi (U.S. Patent No. 3,661,031). Claim 32 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizukoshi in view of Kojo, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,041,887).

These rejections are respectfully traversed in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 1, is directed to an electric power steering apparatus adapted to transmit power supplied from an electric motor for assisting steering. The electric power steering apparatus includes a driving gear and a driven gear through which the power is transmitted. A first backlash between the driving gear and the driven gear in a first range of steering